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**GULL**

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**JUNE MEETING:** The next regular meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific will be held on Thursday evening, June 13th, at 8 o'clock in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Room 19, Second Floor, Ferry Building. Important matters vitally affecting the Association are to be taken up, so it behooves all members to be present.

The speaker of the evening will be Mr. E. C. O'Roke, Biologist, Division of Fish and Game. His subject will be, "Some Ecological Factors in the Life of the Quail."

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**JUNE FIELD TRIP** will be taken on June 16th to Alpine Lake over a new and easy route away from automobile roads. Distance about eight miles. Purchase round trip tickets to Ross, 60c. Take Sausalito Ferry leaving foot of Market Street at 8:15 A. M. Bring luncheon and canteens.

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**JULY FIELD TRIP** will be the usual mid-summer trip to Golden Gate Park. Details as to time and place of meeting will be announced in the July GULL. Mrs. Stephens and Miss Pringle will be the leaders.

\* \* \*

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAY MEETING:** The 148th regular meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific was held on Thursday evening, May 9, 1929, in the Board Room of the Harbor Commission, Ferry Bldg., San Francisco, Calif., at 8 o'clock, with President C. A. Harwell presiding.

Minutes of the Association meeting of April 11, 1929, were read and accepted.

Minutes of Board of Directors' meeting of April 11, 1929, were read and accepted.

State Bird Campaign reports were made by Mr. Harwell, chairman; Miss Clelia Paroni for Berkeley schools; Mrs. G. Kelly for Alameda; Miss Muriel Pettit for S. F. Girls' High School and Mr. Brighton C. Cain for Oakland and Stockton schools and Boy Scouts. The printing of 100,000 ballots bearing name of Audubon Association of the Pacific was reported by Mr. Harwell.

Reports of the Committee on the compilation of colored bird pictures were made and where obtainable by Miss Paroni, chairman, as follows: Church & Dwight Co., New York City, N. Y., "Arm and Hammer" soda sets of five at 10c per set; Remar Bread Co., Oakland; National Association of Audubon Societies, 1974 Broadway, New York City, N. Y., 5c leaflet; *Nature Magazine*, Washington, D. C., \$1.00 per set; Robb Collection, Royal Ontario Museum, Ontario, Canada, 50c plus exchange; Perry Co., 644 subjects listed at 3c each, procurable

from Milton Bradley & Co., San Francisco, Calif. Miss Paroni also mentioned that slides and bird skins were obtainable from Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, and Division of Fish and Game, Russ Bldg., San Francisco. Mr. Penny advised that pictures from Nature Lovers' Library were obtainable from State Museum, Albany, N. Y., for \$1.00 per set. Mr. Cain mentioned series of game bird pictures issued and sold by Dupont de Nemours Co., Wilmington, Del., for \$2.00 per set.

Field observations were reported as follows: Mr. Lockerbie, May 2nd, white-throated sparrow in his back yard, San Francisco; May 5th, Cliff House, black turnstone, wandering tattler, pigeon guillemots and godwits, also cormorants carrying sea weed to Seal Rocks; Chain of Lakes, coots nesting in lily pond; mallard nesting top of Huntington Falls; cedar waxwings in park.

Mr. Carl Smith, May 7th at Bolinas, seven American egrets; red-backed sandpipers and colony of rough-winged swallows nesting in cliff over salt water and every indication of kingfisher nesting in same location.

Mr. Cain, May 5th, Bolinas, rough-winged swallows; at Holt, blue grosbeak; in Oakland, lazuli bunting and May 5th, male Audubon warbler in full breeding plumage singing in Laurel Dell, Marin County.

Mrs. Allen, May 8th, south side Strawberry Canyon, western kingbird. She believes this to be the first record of this bird in Berkeley.

Mrs. Amelia Allen was the speaker of the evening on "Birds of the Santa Cruz Region." Having entertained the Association several years ago with her experiences in that territory which she first visited in 1910 and to which she has been more or less a constant visitor since, Mrs. Allen at this time desired to correct a statement published in connection with her previous talk, to the effect that she had found eleven nests of the black-throated gray warbler, whereas she reports eleven nesting pairs, within two miles' radius, had been observed by her. At the present time she is confident from her observations that the bird is definitely considered an abundant summer resident of the Santa Cruz region.

Mrs. Allen spoke of her first acquaintance in this territory with the white-throated swifts in 1913; of her tanager records since 1917, 1920, 1921 and 1923. Observation records of McGregor, Emerson, Fisk and Fisher were cited in which the latter, in 1902, included the tanager simply as a migrant, but Mrs. Allen stated her belief that he breeds in the neighborhood of the cherry orchards, she having observed the young of the species in 1923 and that it remains now only for the nest to be found to establish definitely the nesting of the tanager in the Santa Cruz region.

With its varied types of country, its mountains and marsh lands, and close proximity to the sea, the Santa Cruz region bids fair to be, according to Mrs. Allen's records so entertainingly set forth, a most interesting one in which to study bird life.

Owing to the advance in cost of printing, subscription to THE GULL will be seventy-five cents per year, effective at once.

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**MAY FIELD TRIP** was taken May 26th to the McCoy ranch and Arroyo Mocho in Livermore Valley. The day was bright but pleasantly cool, with a rather high wind the only unfavorable condition. The party arrived about eleven A. M. and devoted a profitable hour before lunch to the observation of the birds of the ranch.

The region, Upper Sonoran in its plant association, borders upon a northward extending spur of the Lower Sonoran zone, and is especially favorable for the observation of species which frequent both zones, and in the Upper Sonoran usually prefer the warm interior valleys. The flats and hillsides,

openly wooded with oaks, the creek with its gravel bed and protecting thickets, the lawn shrubbery, and the farm buildings are all features which help to make the ranch unusually attractive to birds. About fourteen species were observed in the small area traversed; killdeer and western mourning doves were especially numerous.

After lunch which was enjoyed under the oaks, it was decided to continue along Arroyo Mocho to a roadside grove about eight miles beyond the ranch. The open valley after a few miles gives place to a canyon, sometimes chaparral covered on south-facing slopes, but with other exposures rather densely wooded with oaks and digger pine. Sycamores, alders and a tangle of willows follow the creek bed of the narrow valley.

The most interesting observations of the day center about those species rare or absent in the humid coast belt, to which most of the society's excursions are confined. Phainopeplas nest regularly along Arroyo Mocho but vary in numbers from year to year. A pair which nested at the ranch last year failed to return but three of the birds were seen about two miles beyond that point in trees along the creek. This desert species is extremely local in its distribution as a summer visitant in northern California and its occurrence here enabled several members to add a new bird to their life lists. The long-tailed chat afforded another interesting record. This elusive bird, first identified by his unmistakable whistled notes, was observed in the willows along the creek a short distance beyond our parking grove. Other species observed here which are typically absent from the immediate vicinity of San Francisco Bay were: Bullock oriole, Nuttall woodpecker, Lawrence goldfinch, golden eagle, white-throated swift, Texas nighthawk, and western kingbird.

This excursion, timed with reference to the nesting season, was amply rewarded. Two nests of the western gnatcatcher were placed on horizontal limbs of the willow of the same diameter as the nests, at a height of about seven feet. The small mounds cleverly camouflaged with bits of gray bark matched their surroundings perfectly. A brooding female allowed the limb to be drawn down for observation and refused to flush until touched several times. The young were found to be just out of the shell. Two of the conical mud-and-horselair nests of the black phoebe were also discovered: one in a barn, the other plastered to the supporting timbers of a low bridge: the latter contained five small young. Two last year's nests of this species, marvels of symmetry, were fastened directly to the rocks of a creek bank, below a protecting ledge. A family of squealing young Nuttall woodpeckers occupied the hollow trunk of a willow, the nest hole not over eighteen inches above the ground. The recently completed nest of the western wood pewee was located on the horizontal limb of a cottonwood at a height of about fifteen feet. Nests of the valley quail and California brown towhee, both on the ground, were also located. Bank swallows were seen leaving their nesting holes on the opposite side of the canyon. Linnets, Lawrence goldfinches, and California horned larks which had recently left the nest were also seen. Finally, the old nest of a Vigors wren in a broken lantern, exhibited by Mr. McCoy, illustrated once more the amusing resourcefulness of the wren tribe. (It may here be remarked that Mr. McCoy has a very interesting series of well-mounted nests and eggs in natural surroundings, the result of collections over a number of years and including many of the representative birds of the region.)

Altogether the excursion afforded many welcome opportunities for the observation of new or unfamiliar species, and we feel sure that we express the wishes of all the members in voting thanks to Mr. McCoy whose courtesy and hospitality helped to make the day a success. The list below compiled from reports of various groups, includes not only birds of the McCoy ranch and Arroyo Mocho, but also species observed en route from Oakland, chiefly in Niles and Dublin canyons.

ETHEL CRUM.

## THE GULL

Birds observed were: Northern turkey vulture; Cooper and western red-tailed hawks; golden eagle, desert sparrow hawk; interior California quail; northern killdeer; western mourning dove; Pacific great horned and northern burrowing owls; Texas (?) nighthawk; white-throated swift; Anna hummingbird; Monterey red-shafted flicker, California acorn storing, willow downy and Nuttall ladder-backed woodpeckers; western kingbird; northern ash-throated flycatcher; black phoebe; yellow-bellied western flycatcher; common western wood pewee; greater olive-sided flycatcher; California horned lark; northern violet-green, American bank, barn and northern cliff swallows, western purple martin; interior California jay; western American crow; California plain titmouse; California bush-tit; slender-billed white-breasted nuthatch; intermediate wren-tit; western house, Vigor's Bewick, dotted canyon and northern rock wrens; Pacific russet-backed thrush; western Mexican bluebird; western blue-gray gnatcatcher; cedar waxwing; northern phainopepla; California logger-head shrike; western warbling and Cassin solitary vireos; lutescent orange-crowned and California yellow warblers; long-tailed yellow-breasted chat; golden pileolated warbler; western meadowlark; San Francisco red-winged blackbird; Bullock oriole; California Brewer blackbird; Pacific black-headed grosbeak; California purple finch; California linnet; willow American, green-backed Arkansas and Lawrence goldfinches; San Francisco brown towhee; western lark sparrow; Point Pinos Oregon junco; western chip-ping and song sparrows. Sixty-six species.

CHAS. A. BRYANT.

Members in attendance were: Mrs. Bracelin, Kelly, Kibbe, Mr. and Mrs. Stephens; Misses Ayer, Cohen, Cockefair, Ethel and Martha Crum, MacAleer, Pringle, Richards, Sterne, Werner; Messrs. Bremer, Bryant, de Fremery, Harwell, Lockerbie, Penny. Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Bolander, Gordon Bolander, Mrs. Emerson, Mr. and Mrs. Pletcher; Misses Ada and Martha Belvel, Kautz; Leslie Hawkins; Messrs. Hoyt, Jussel. Twenty-one members, twelve guests.



"Among the many stories of queer customs which we were wont to hear in childhood days, that of the fondness of the Chinese for edible birds' nests no doubt struck us as one of the strangest and most bizarre. To those of us unfamiliar with the eccentricities of oriental life, such a habit may well continue to strike us as an unaccountable perversion of taste. According to the National Association of Audubon Societies the gathering of birds' nests in Siam continues to be a very important industry. From the latest available figures the shipments for one year amounted to nearly 20,000 nests, representing a value of more than \$112,000. The greater portion of the Siamese nests go to China, Hongkong and Singapore, where they are considered a great delicacy. The Chinese not only hold these nests in high esteem as a table delicacy, but regard them as possessing great tonic properties. The nests are found in the islands off the Siamese coast and are the products of a pygmy swift or swiftlet (*Collocalia*). Of the upwards of thirty forms of this group not all build edible nests. The nests are built in caverns and those of the best quality are composed entirely of mucus which is secreted by the large glands in the throat."—*The American Field*, March 2, 1929.

### AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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Meets second Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, Second Floor, Room 19.

Address Bulletin correspondence to the Corresponding Secretary.

Subscription to Bulletin alone, 75c per year. Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year. Additional active members in the same household and under the same support, \$2.00 per year. Life membership, \$50.00.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.